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Hoekstra Statement on White House North Korea Decision

WASHINGTON, D.C. – *U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., the top Republican on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, issued the following statement after the White House announced it would remove North Korea from the list of sponsors of state terrorism:*

“This decision by the administration turns trust but verify on its head. Serious questions remain unanswered about North Korea’s involvement with the destroyed Syrian nuclear reactor and its commitment to fully disclose and halt its nuclear program. Instead of greeting North Korea’s declaration with deserved skepticism, the administration seems all too willing to ignore North Korea’s long-established history of nuclear mendacity.

“A decision seemingly has been made that it is more important for the White House to reach a legacy agreement than to get to the bottom of North Korea’s nuclear efforts. The administration has repeatedly delayed briefing Congress on North Korean proliferation because it knows any deal reached would not likely survive the scrutiny of openness. It has never sought to hold North Korea accountable for its nuclear weapons tests, its known nuclear proliferation activities or its willingness to sell arms to any nation or group that can pay.

“Lifting sanctions and removing North Korea from the list of state sponsors of terrorism flies in the face of history and rewards its brutal dictator for shallow gestures. Just as the Clinton administration was fooled by the Kim Jong-Il regime, time will soon tell if the Bush administration will fall for the same bait.”